

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 12-28 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, Figs. 6 and 8-10. Claim 2 is amended to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, Fig. 1 and paragraph [0005]. Claims 3 and 12 are amended to be consistent with the amendments made to claims 1 and 2, respectively. Claims 1 and 2 are also amended for clarity. No new matter is added.

Reconsideration the application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge consideration of the references submitted with the March 25, 2008 Information Disclosure Statement.

The Office Action objects to claim 1. Claim 1 is amended to delete the objected to language. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claim 1 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 12 and 25-28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Japanese Patent Application Publication No. JP 6-146852 to Masuda; rejects claims 1-3, 12-14, 21-24, 27 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) over Japanese Patent Application Publication No. JP 2002-213228 to Arakawa; rejects claims 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Masuda or Arakawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,595,581 to Ichikawa et al.; and rejects claims 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Masuda or Arakawa in view of Japanese Patent Application Publication No. JP 05-256124 to Akio et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 2 are amended to recite additional features, as outlined above. The applied references do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1 and 2, as amended.

In particular, neither Masuda nor Arakawa disclose or suggest any of the features (i)-(iii) recited in claim 1. Also, Ichikawa and Akio do not supply the subject matter lacking

in Masuda and Arakawa. Thus, the applied references, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 1.

Claim 2 recites, among others, an earth electrode, and a honeycomb filter made of a non-conductive material. The applied references do not disclose or suggest these features.

In particular, Masuda discloses a gas purifying device having two electrodes 8 and 9 sandwiching a ceramic filter 6. See Fig. 1. The two electrodes 8 and 9 are connected between two ends of an AC power supply 10. Masuda does not disclose that any of the two electrodes 8 and 9 are grounded. Thus, Masuda does not disclose an earth electrode.

Arakawa appears to disclose an emission control device having a discharge part 30 and a dust collection part 70 that are situated separately within the flow passage 6. See Fig. 3. The discharge part 30 includes electrodes 3 that are supplied with high voltage power from power supply generating section 4. See Fig. 1 and paragraph [0012]. The dust collection part 70 consists of a conductive material 7 that is grounded. See Fig. 3 and paragraph [0016]. Arakawa does not disclose or suggest a filter that is not conductive.

Furthermore, as discussed above, Arakawa discloses that the dust collection part 70 is made of conductive material 7. See Fig. 3 and paragraph [0016]. Thus, one of ordinary skill would not have thought it obvious to try and combine Arakawa's conductive material with Masuda to arrive at a non-conductive filter. Also, Ichikawa and Akio do not supply the subject matter lacking in Masuda and Arakawa. Thus, the applied references, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 2.

Claims 3 and 12-28 are patentable at least in view of the patentability of claims 1 and 2, from which they respectively depend, as well as for additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3 and 12-28 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:GXL/rle

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: May 12, 2008

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